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MONTHLY REPORTS - 11-BLU

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Dec. - Jan. 1946(210
213)

(SECRET & CONFIDENTIAL)

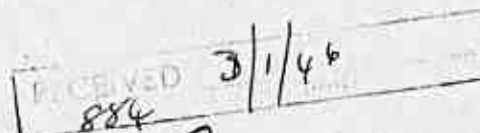
11 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
Palermo, Sicily.

1 Jan. 1946.

Subject : Monthly Intelligence-Report No.2 - Dec.45.

Ref. : PAL/I/1.

To : H.Q. M.M.I.A.

1. Political

There have been a number of happenings in the Political sphere in Sicily during the past month.

a. The Separtist Movement appears to be rising again and various elements, headed by Avv. Gallo of Catania have been distributing a large amount of Party Propaganda.

b. It is rumoured that Camillo Finocchiaro - Aprile (who was arrested two months ago and confined on the Isle of Ponza, near Naples) is going to be released shortly.

c. Communist Party is at present in a state of chaos.

d. Activities of the Monarchist Movement have increased since last month.

e. Democratic Christian Party gets stronger every day especially in the smaller towns.

f. There has been a small Fascist Party uprising in Catania and various party propaganda sheets have been distributed amongst the people. I am looking into this and expect to obtain some of these pamphlets; which I will forward later.

g. The feeling of excitement caused by the possible choice of ORLANDO as Prime-Minister has died down.

2. Local Government.

No further news concerning the possible resignation of the high Commissioner.

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3. Economics.

a. The working class is still very unhappy about the high cost-of-living.

b. Black-Market prices are falling - especially price of clothing.

(cont'd)

c. There is a big transportation crisis - especially on the Railway due to the shortage of trains, wagons and freight cars, and many of the Railway Employees are threatening to strike if the position doesn't improve.

4. Public Security.

a. This has started to improve, especially in the Palermo and Catania Areas.

b. There was an attack on the C.C. R.R. station at BELIOLAMPO - 10 km west of Palermo on 27.Dec. The 3 C.C. R.R. were attacked by 50 Bandits, armed with hand Granades and Automatic weapons.

One Carabinieri was very seriously wounded in his head - the other two were forced to surrender, and were dis-armed. The Bandits afterwards destroyed by fire, all the C.C. R.R. records, fire-arms and ammunition.

c. A large Force of C.C. R.R. was dispatched from Palermo to maintain order.

5. Morale of the Italian Soldiers appears to be improving slightly, as things gradually start becoming normal again. Their one main worry at the present, is still lack of Equipment Uniforms etc.

The Italian welfare Department has organised a number of "post-war Reconstruction lectures" for the troops.

6. Military Security.

On the whole quite good.

M. E. Mucor
Major
G.S.O. II.

REH/gc.

11 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
Palermo, Sicily.

1
18 Dec. 1945

Subject :- Intelligence Report - Nov. 45.

File :- PAL/I/1.

To :- H.Q. M.M.I.A.

MMIA - 'G'

FILE: G/INT/40.

DATE: 28/12.

1. Political.

There was some excitement over the possible choice of Orlando as Prime - Minister.

Influx of Italians expelled from Tunisia caused some rumblings among the people, but some well - informed persons state only those who were fascists and/or worked with the Germans are being sent out.

The general feeling among these people is that the French are simply doing a sort of epuration, although the average person, if he thinks at all, feels very annoyed at the French for driving his relatives and country - men away from property and professions belonging to them.

The people are beginning to think more seriously of how free the elections will be considering the ministerial appointments and the hidden arms controlled by adherents of the left parties.

The electoral lists in Sicily are sufficiently advanced now to enable the administrative elections to be held in another month.

2. Local Government.

It is said that the high commissioner is about to resign, and there is great speculation about his successor.

3. Economics.

The Black - Market is flourishing and current prices show cause for satisfaction on the part of the Black Marketeers (e.g. 20 English cigarettes for 500 lire.)

4. Labour.

There have been no strikes during the past few days.

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5. Public Safety.

Quite good - although at the beginning of the month strikes tended to cause unrest.

There was a shooting incident in the main - square of Palermo at the end of the month but nothing serious, this was due to some persons attempting to sell Imported Papers.

5. Morale.

The moral of the Italian Troops still needs a great deal of improvement. This, I feel, will come with the raising of the standard of training, and with the re-equipping and re-dressing of the Italian Army.

6. Military Security.

This appears to be reasonably good. No serious false rumours or breaches of security having come to my notice.

[Signature]
G.S.O. II.
11 B.L.U.

REH/gc.

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